

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04719 01 OF 02 210707Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8230

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 04719

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS : PINT, SHUM, TW
SUBJECT : REPERCUSSIONS OF CH'EN CHU CASE

REF : TAIPEI 04355

SUMMARY. THE CH'EN CHU CASE HAS LEFT THE HEADLINES
BUT ITS RAMIFICATIONS CONTINUE TO INTEREST
LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES AND PRESS. CH'EN HAS BEEN
RENDERED EFFECTIVELY INACCESSIBLE BY INVOLVEMENT IN
TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND (TGC) SPONSORED TOURS. TGC'S
STATED INTENTION TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATION OF RELATED
CASES BASED ON INFORMATION DEVELOPED FROM CH'EN HAS
RAISED SPECULATION OVER POSSIBLE FUTURE ARRESTS AND
INFLUENCE OF THE CASE ON OPPOSITIONIST POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
IN DECEMBER ELECTIONS. LOCAL PRESS HAS OBJECTED TO SOME
GROC ATTEMPTS TO MANAGE NEWS IN LOCAL REPORTING
OF CH'EN CASE. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOW-ON INVESTIGATIONS: ALTHOUGH THE CH'EN CHU
CASE QUICKLY LEFT THE HEADLINES THERE CONTINUES TO BE
CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND SPECULATION IN POLITICAL AND
JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES REGARDING RAMIFICATIONS OF THE
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 04719 01 OF 02 210707Z

INCIDENT. THE TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND STATED, AT THE
TIME OF CH'EN'S RELEASE, THAT INVESTIGATION OF
"RELATED" CASES WOULD BE THOROUGHLY CARRIED OUT BASED
ON MATERIALS TAKEN FROM CH'EN'S APARTMENT AND INFORMA-
TION OBTAINED DURING HER QUESTIONING. THIS HAS LED TO
SOME UNEASINESS AMONG CH'EN'S ASSOCIATES AND TO THE
SURFACING OF A "LIST" OF POSSIBLE FUTURE GARRISON COMMAND

TARGETS (SEE PARA. 2). ON JULY 11 IN ONE OF THE FEW FOLLOW-UP STORIES TO APPEAR IN CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS SINCE CH'EN'S RELEASE, TZU LI WAN PAO CITY EDITOR LIN HSING-I NOTED "FOR THIS REASON, THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICS HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO WHETHER THERE WILL BE 'OTHER DEVELOPMENTS' AFTER THE CH'EN CHU CASE."

2. POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SUSPECTS: RUMORS OF A LIST OF POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SUSPECTS BEGAN TO CIRCULATE SHORTLY AFTER THE RAID ON CH'EN'S APARTMENT. AS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT TGC WOULD RELEASE ITS OWN LIST, WE BELIEVE RUMORED LIST MAY HAVE BEEN SELF-GENERATED BY THOSE WHO FELT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN COMPROMISED IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN A MEASURE OF SAFETY THROUGH PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE OF THEIR NAMES. A COPY OF THE LIST OBTAINED BY EMBASSY IS VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS THE NAMES CONTAINED IN KUO YU HSIN'S WASHINGTON PRESS RELEASE, AS FOLLOWS:

- YAO CHIA-WEN (1202/0857/2429), LAWYER, LEADER AND LEGAL ADVISOR OF INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS
 - LIN CHENG-CHIEH (2651/2973/2638), SON OF A LATE ARMY COLONEL, GRADUATE STUDENT OF NATIONAL CHENGCHI UNIVERSITY, AND A CAMPAIGN ASSISTANT OF MAGISTRATE HSU HSIN-LIANG IN THE LAST ELECTION
 - CHANG FU-CHUNG (1728/1381/1813), REPORTER AND MANAGER OF A PUBLISHING AGENCY. CHANG FU-CHUNG AND
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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 04719 01 OF 02 210707Z

LIN CHENG-CHIEH ARE CO-AUTHORS OF THE BANNED BOOK "LONG LIVE THE ELECTION"

- WANG T'O (3769/2148), AUTHOR AND FORMER GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CHIEN K'ANG MAGAZINE. HE IS ONE OF THE ADVOCATES OF THE "COUNTRY LITERATURE" MOVEMENT (I.E. TAIWANESE POPULIST LITERATURE)

IN ADDITION OUR LIST CONTAINS TWO AS YET UNIDENTIFIED FIGURES:

- HO WEN-CHENG (0149/2429/2398) AND
- LI CHIN-JUNG (2621/6855/2837)

3. CH'EN UNAVAILABLE: A NUMBER OF REPORTERS HAVE NOTED PRIVATELY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH CH'EN SINCE HER RELEASE TO INQUIRE ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE AS SHE HAS BEEN FULLY OCCUPIED WITH GARRISON COMMAND ORGANIZED TRIPS TO KINMEN ISLAND AND THE 10 MAJOR NATIONAL PROJECT SITES. BOTH THE PRESS AND MOFA HAVE SOUGHT EMBASSY REACTION TO GROG HANDLING OF THIS CASE. REPORTERS, BUT NOT MOFA, HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ELICIT EMBASSY COMMENT ON POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND WHETHER OR NOT THE EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW CH'EN (NOTE: OUR RESPONSE HAS

BEEN ONLY TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION THAT THE CASE HAS
BEEN HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND, PARTICULARLY WITH
MOFA, TO NOTE APPRECIATION OF GROC'S
ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF THE CASE.)

4. CH'EN'S SUCCESSFUL RE-EDUCATION: SPECULATION
REGARDING HOW THE TGC WAS ABLE TO BRING ABOUT THE
TRANSFORMATION IN CH'EN CHU TO DATE HAS BEEN LIMITED
TO ORAL COMMENTS. REPORTERS HAVE NOT HAD ACCESS TO
CH'EN SINCE HER RELEASE AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT RISK
PUBLISHING ANY ACCOUNT WHICH VARIED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM
THE TGC VERSION. THIS HAS NOT HALTED SPECULATION
REGARDING THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF TGC'S INVESTIGATIONS
(I.E. ADDITIONAL ARRESTS) AND POSSIBLE MODERATING EFFECT
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PAGE 04 TAIPEI 04719 01 OF 02 210707Z

OF CH'EN'S CASE ON NON-PARTY CANDIDATES IN THE UPCOMING
ELECTIONS. SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS STILL FEEL THAT GROC

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04719 02 OF 02 210710Z
ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TAIPEI 04719

ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE CH'EN'S CASE WERE DESIGNED
PRIMARILY TO PROVIDE A WARNING TO OPPOSITIONISTS AND
INSURE THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES REMAIN MODERATE.

5. PRESS DISSATISFACTION: A JUNIOR TLWP EDITOR TOLD
EMBOFF THAT ALL SENIOR EDITORS OR PUBLISHERS HAD BEEN

SUMMONED JUST BEFORE THE GARRISON COMMAND PRESS CONFERENCE ON CH'EN CHU AND INSTRUCTED TO REPORT ONLY THE FACTS OF THE STORY AS REVEALED AND NOT TO COMMENT OR SPECULATE ABOUT THE CASE. (THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING RECEIVED THE SAME INSTRUCTIONS BY TELEPHONE). SEVERAL LOCAL REPORTERS HAVE INDICATED THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH GROC HANDLING OF PRESS COVERAGE OF CH'EN CHU, PARTICULARLY REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PUBLISH CH'EN'S SECOND (JULY 5) STATEMENT WHICH WAS RELEASED TO FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS (REF TAIPEI 04355) AND FACT THAT GIO HANDOUTS TO LOCAL PRESS DID NOT INCLUDE REFERENCE TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF AN AMERICAN PRIEST IN THE CASE, WHILE HIS ROLE WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN RELEASES TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. (LOCALLY ONLY THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS AND INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF CENTRAL DAILY NEWS MADE ANY MENTION OF THE PRIEST.) SUCH DIFFERENCES WERE CHARACTERIZED
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 04719 02 OF 02 210710Z

AS AN "INSULT" BY ONE CHINESE REPORTER. A CHINESE NEWS BROADCASTER FOR THE KMT-SUPPORTED BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF CHINA TERMED "RIDICULOUS" THE AIRING OF TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS, ONE FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND ONE FOR OVERSEAS SHORTWAVE BROADCAST. UNGER

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SAS ID: 1921783
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TW, (CHEN CHU)
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